

Knife Fire Update

Date: May 28, 2006, 8 a.m.

Fire Name: Knife Fire

Time/Date Started: May 27, 2006; Called in by O'Leary Lookout at 2:14 p.m.

Location: Southeast of Walnut Canyon; about 14 miles east of downtown Flagstaff; on the Coconino National Forest

Cause: Human-caused; under investigation

Fuels: Pinyon/juniper woodlands; grasses

Size: 100 acres

% Contained: 30 %

Estimated Containment Date: Unknown

Resources Committed: 5 engines, 3 water tenders, 2 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 2 Type 2 crews, 4 dozers, and several individual firefighting personnel; Total personnel = 118

Estimated Cost to Date: \$20,000

Predicted Weather: Red Flag conditions predicted for today from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Windy conditions are expected again today, mainly east of Flagstaff. Temperatures will be several degrees cooler today than yesterday. In the fire area, winds are expected to be from the southwest at about 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph and higher. A warming trend with much lighter winds is expected tomorrow.

Structures: No structures threatened at this time.

Concerns: Smoke on Interstate 40 continues to be a concern. However, the highway remains open. The fire has moved to within a mile of the interstate. There are also powerlines in the area. APS personnel are on scene. For their own safety, motorists should avoid the frontage road on the south side of Interstate 40 between Winona and Twin Arrows. Motorists are also asked to avoid forest roads in the fire area due to heavy use by firefighting equipment and personnel.

Summary: Firefighters worked late into the night last night constructing dozer line around the fire and conducting burnout operations. Firefighters burned fuel between the fire itself and the constructed line. This should help reduce the likelihood of the fire moving beyond the constructed line. This morning, firefighters will continue building line around the fire and conducting burnout operations.

Restrictions: Campfire and smoking restrictions are in place for the Coconino National Forest. The Knife Fire was human-caused, although the exact cause is still under investigation. Forest visitors are urged to obey the rules regarding campfire and smoking restrictions. Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both.

Contact Numbers: 928-635-5607, 928-606-7490